



## Hazards Associated with Powered Industrial Trucks

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Powered industrial trucks are used throughout many businesses. Their primary usage allows a variety of tasks associated with material handling to be performed quickly, efficiently, and economically. The hazards commonly associated with powered industrial trucks vary depending on the type of operations and how the operator drives the vehicle. Among these hazards are:

- Falling loads are caused by overloading or unbalanced loading.
- Operator has an obstructed view in the direction of travel.
- The vehicle is being operated at an excessive rate of speed.



There are other hazards related to the use of powered industrial trucks that are caused or enhanced by characteristics of the workplace. These hazards include the following:

- Operating in areas where there are narrow aisles.
- Operating where there are employees working in or adjacent to the path of travel of the powered industrial truck.
- Loading or unloading trailers and failing to ensure that the trailer floor will support the imposed load.
- Failure to ensure the wheels are properly blocked with wheel chocks.

Training must be given in order to ensure that operators know how to use powered industrial trucks. The applicable regulation is Title 29, Section 1910.178 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

## Employer Responsibility

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Only authorized personnel are allowed to operate a powered industrial truck. You must provide training prior to the employee's assignment as an operator and evaluate the potential operator on:

- Operating ability.
- Knowledge of the equipment.
- Knowledge of daily checks.

As the employer, you must initiate a performance test to determine whether an employee can operate the assigned truck through the functions necessary to perform the required work.

### **Employee Responsibility**

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An operator shall safeguard other employees at all times. If at any time a powered industrial truck is found to be in need of repair, is defective, or in any way unsafe, the truck must be taken out of service until it has been restored to a safe operating condition. Authorized personnel must make all repairs.

For a copy of the powered industrial truck standard, call INSafe at (317) 232-2688.